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BILL NO.: Senate Bill 726

TITLE: Transportation – Highway User Revenue – Distribution

SPONSOR: Senator McCray

COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation

POSITION: **SUPORRT**

DATE: March 9, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 726 – Highway User Revenue – Distribution. This legislation increases the share of funds collected from highway user revenues that must be appropriated to local governments.

For 40 years, local governments received 30 percent of transportation revenues to fund road maintenance projects. During the 2008 recession, over concerns of drastic declines in revenues and sharp increases in State expenditures, the allocation of Highway User Revenues to local governments dropped by nearly 90 percent. More than a decade later, this funding has not been restored. It is estimated that Baltimore County has missed out on over half a billion dollars in cumulative funding since this alteration. To keep up with repairs and reconstruction of aging local infrastructure and locally maintained roads, local governments need this funding restored.

SB 726 requires the State to raise these much-needed funds closer to prerecession levels. This additional investment will provide Baltimore County with tens of millions more each year for roads, local infrastructure, and services that County residents depend on. SB 726 will benefit Maryland residents by providing local jurisdictions with the resources necessary to address their quality of life needs.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 726. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.